

IT'S ALWAYS  
THE SAME. THEY  
PUT ME UNDER  
THE NEEDLE, AND  
I END UP HERE.

THEY'VE CHANGED ME SO  
MANY TIMES AND I REMEMBER  
SO MANY THINGS, SO MANY  
DIFFERENT LIVES...BUT IT ALL  
FEELS FLAT. LIKE I'VE LIVED  
THEM THROUGH SOMEONE  
ELSE'S EYES.

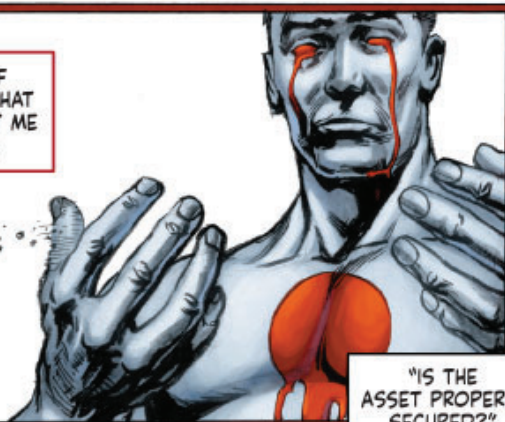


BUT THIS  
PLACE...

...THIS  
PLACE IS  
ALL MINE.

I WONDER IF  
THEY KNOW? THAT  
WHEN THEY PUT ME  
TO SLEEP...

...I DREAM  
NIGHTMARES.



"IS THE  
ASSET PROPERLY  
SECURED?"

**PROJECT  
RISING  
SPIRIT.**



YES,  
DOCTOR. THE  
ASSET IS FULLY  
SUBDUED.

VITAL  
SIGNS?

STEADY.

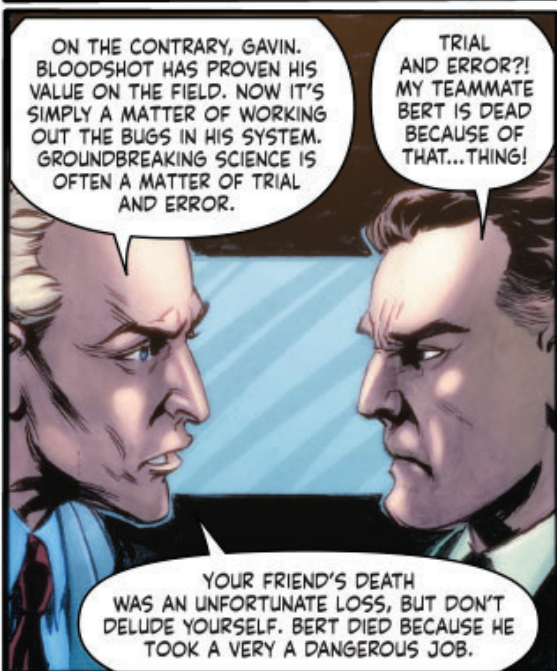
EXCELLENT...



...DIRECTOR  
CORMAC, WE ARE  
READY FOR THE  
NEXT PHASE IN THE  
PROCEDURE.

THANK YOU,  
DOCTOR MURPHY. SOMEONE  
CONTACT OUR SOFTWARE  
TECHNICIANS. TELL THEM TO  
PREPARE THE NEXT SERIES  
OF MEMORY ENGRAMS.

THIS IS  
NEVER GOING TO WORK,  
NIGEL...THOSE IMPLANTS WILL  
NEVER TAKE! YOU'LL NEVER BE  
ABLE TO CONTROL IT. YOU'RE  
MAKING A MISTAKE!



ON THE CONTRARY, GAVIN.  
BLOODSHOT HAS PROVEN HIS  
VALUE ON THE FIELD. NOW IT'S  
SIMPLY A MATTER OF WORKING  
OUT THE BUGS IN HIS SYSTEM.  
GROUNDBREAKING SCIENCE IS  
OFTEN A MATTER OF TRIAL  
AND ERROR.

TRIAL  
AND ERROR?!  
MY TEAMMATE  
BERT IS DEAD  
BECAUSE OF  
THAT...THING!

YOUR FRIEND'S DEATH  
WAS AN UNFORTUNATE LOSS, BUT DON'T  
DELUDE YOURSELF. BERT DIED BECAUSE HE  
TOOK A VERY A DANGEROUS JOB.



I'M NOT GOING TO ALLOW YOU  
TO PUT ANOTHER ONE OF MY CREW'S  
LIVES AT RISK JUST TO TEST THAT  
FREAK YOU CALL A WEAPON.  
THERE'S NO WAY--

I'M SORRY, LIEUTENANT  
DAUBE. I BELIEVE YOU HAVE  
FORGOTTEN THE NATURE OF  
YOUR POSITION.

OH, HAVE  
I NOW? AND  
WHAT EXACTLY IS  
THAT, DIRECTOR  
CORMAC?

THAT  
YOU'RE A  
SOLDIER...



...AND  
GOOD SOLDIERS  
DO AS THEIR  
TOLD.



GAVIN?

ARE YOU  
OKAY?

WHAT DID  
HE SAY?

NOTHING  
YOU'D LIKE.



WE AREN'T GETTING  
OUT OF THIS. AS SOON AS  
BLOODSHOT IS READY TO BE  
TESTED AGAIN, WE'RE GONNA  
BE DEPLOYED WITH HIM  
AGAIN.

THEY'RE  
TRYING TO,  
AMBER.

THAT  
MEANS NO.

SO THEY  
FIXED HIM?

YOU MEAN THEY  
STILL WANT US TO BABYSIT  
THAT MONSTER? THESE ARE  
OUR LIVES WE'RE TALKING  
ABOUT! WHAT IF SOMETHING  
GOES WRONG?



DON'T  
YOU THINK  
I KNOW  
THAT?!



I'M  
SORRY.

THIS  
JUST ISN'T  
RIGHT.

YOU'RE  
DAMN RIGHT  
IT ISN'T.

WHAT  
ARE WE  
SUPPOSED  
TO DO?

THE  
ONLY THING  
WE CAN DO,  
CHESTER...



...WE  
MAKE IT  
RIGHT.

"RAY..."

SILICON VALLEY



"C'MON, RAY...  
I CAN HEAR YOU  
SNORING."



"EARTH TO  
GARRISON..."



"I CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
THIS..."



THWACK



SORRY, TIM. I HAD A LATE NIGHT. MY FRIENDS AND I WERE UP LATE WRITING THIS NEW APP--

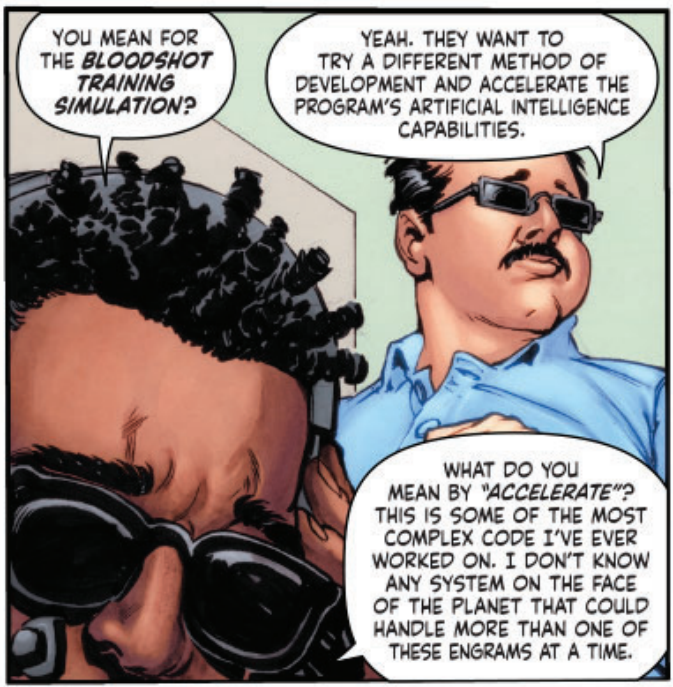
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH...YOU AND EVERYBODY ELSE IN THIS ROOM, BUT I DON'T HEAR ANYONE ELSE SLEEPING ON THE JOB!

YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY.

I HATE YELLING! I DIDN'T GET INTO THIS LINE OF WORK TO BE CONFRONTATIONAL...

IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

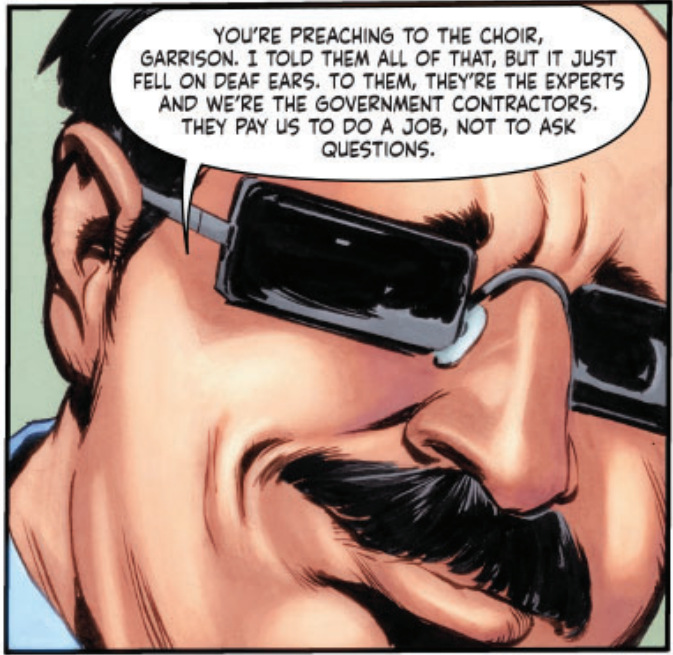
IT'S OKAY... IT'S JUST A STRESSFUL DAY. WORD CAME DOWN FROM ON HIGH. THEY NEED THOSE NEW STORY ALGORITHMS ASAP.



YOU MEAN FOR THE **BLOODSHOT TRAINING SIMULATION**?

YEAH. THEY WANT TO TRY A DIFFERENT METHOD OF DEVELOPMENT AND ACCELERATE THE PROGRAM'S ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES.

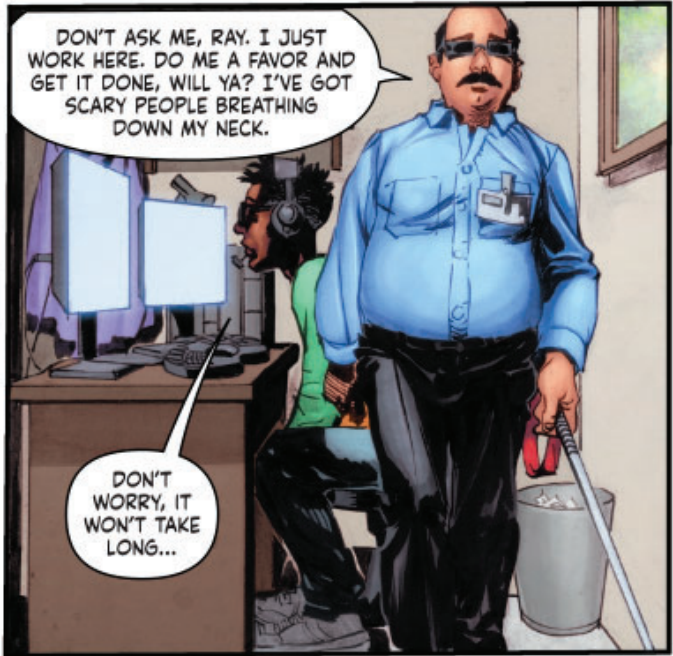
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "ACCELERATE"? THIS IS SOME OF THE MOST COMPLEX CODE I'VE EVER WORKED ON. I DON'T KNOW ANY SYSTEM ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET THAT COULD HANDLE MORE THAN ONE OF THESE ENGRAMS AT A TIME.



YOU'RE PREACHING TO THE CHOIR, GARRISON. I TOLD THEM ALL OF THAT, BUT IT JUST FELL ON DEAF EARS. TO THEM, THEY'RE THE EXPERTS AND WE'RE THE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS. THEY PAY US TO DO A JOB, NOT TO ASK QUESTIONS.



ALRIGHT...I HAVE A BUNCH OF FILES READY TO GO. IT'S ABOUT FOUR MONTHS OF WORK THOUGH. WHAT'S THIS ALL FOR, ANYWAY? SEEMS WEIRD THAT THE MILITARY WANTS A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE SAME STORY FOR A VR GAME.



DON'T ASK ME, RAY. I JUST WORK HERE. DO ME A FAVOR AND GET IT DONE, WILL YA? I'VE GOT SCARY PEOPLE BREATHING DOWN MY NECK.

DON'T WORRY, IT WON'T TAKE LONG...